

NSC BRIEFING

Faure held office about
Econ prog in Daniel Goussier
23 February 1955
M-F was worked up by
Faure

FAURE CANDIDACY FOR FRENCH PREMIERSHIP

I. Faure wily politico:

- A. Represents all-things-to-all-men political approach which can resolve no basic issues.
- B. Despite broad support to right of Socialists,
 - 1. Left-wing MRP Radicals and Gaullists hesitant to accept Independent bloc support in face of Socialist opposition.
 - 2. Mendes-France followers would prefer clearly defined rightist premier and government in order leave left-center leadership to Radicals.
 - a. Mendes-France reported doing everything he could to sabotage Faure's candidacy.
- C. Constitutional requirement that cabinet and premier-designate be presented simultaneously to Assembly more than counter-balanced relaxation of requirement for absolute majority for investiture.
 - 1. Both changes voted on second reading on 30 November 54 with support of Mendes-France who urged Assembly clear up legislative calendar.
 - 2. In no sense a real reform, but opens possibility for further change in 1956 constitution.

II. Will press for approval of Paris agreements:

- A. Faure reported well aware US suspicions following his defection over EDC, and he is most anxious gain US confidence through early ratification.

DOCUMENT NO. 26
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐
☒ DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS & C
NEXT REVIEW DATE:
DATE 3 Jan 80 REVIEWER: ☐

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1. Faure's first objective will be Senate approval without amendment.

- B. Pinay in Foreign Ministry well suited to get French approval nevertheless.
- C. Palouski in newly created Ministry for International Organizations is danger:

1. Following Malenkov ouster hounded West "continuing to follow the sad road of an outmoded policy: First EDC, then the Paris agreements before negotiations."
2. Gaullist executive committee 8 February declaration of policy: Paris agreements should be subordinated to complete and rapid exploration of the possibilities of talks with the East.
 - a. assures amendment will be proposed by Gaullists.
- B. Well-organized campaign of Communists and other opponents to influence Senators against accords:
 1. Pro-accords Gaullist Senator Debre thinks constant stream of letters (about 15 per day) beginning to make serious dents.
 - a. Senator recognize Communist inspiration of letters but are influenced because they come from prominent non-Communist constituents.
 2. Half of senators up for re-election in June.
 - a. Humanite running daily lists of their names.
 - b. Campaign of posters showing poignant local scene under German occupation and portrait of local deputy under big headline: This man voted for German Rearmament.

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3. Two organizations conducting pro-accords campaign.
 - a. National movement of local office holders sending 100,000 pro-WEU letters to municipal and departmental councilors.
 - b. Socialist office holders' association
 1. Backing appeal above
 2. Distributing similar appeal to 8-10,000 members, quoting Mayor of Marseille's attack on Communist-inspired letters.
 - c. Senators of at least one Dept (Rhône) circularized departmental councilors with strong condemnation of Communist campaign.

SITUATION IN FRANCE

I. Faure wily politico:

- A. Represents all-things-to-all-men political approach which can resolve no basic issues.
- B. Large majority on investiture no guarantee of stable coalition:

II. Faure committed to press for approval of Paris agreements:

- A. Faure reported well aware US suspicions following his defection over EDC, and he is most anxious gain US confidence through early ratification.
 - 1. Deadline for Council action 1 April.

Nevertheless,

- B. Palewski in newly created Ministry for International Organizations is danger:
 - 1. Bemoaned West "continuing to follow the sad road of an outmoded policy: first EDC, then the Paris agreements, before negotiations."

2. Amendment will be proposed by

Gaullists in the Council.

C. Well-organized campaign of Communist
and other opponents to influence
Senators against accords:

1. Letters (about 15 per day to each
senator) beginning to make
serious dents.

a. Senators recognize Communist
inspiration of letters but are
influenced because they come
from prominent non-Communist
constituents.

2. Half of senators up for re-election
in June.

a. Humanite running daily lists
of their names and urging
pressure on them.

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b. Campaign of posters showing poignant local scenes under German occupation and portrait of local deputies under big headlines: This man voted for German Rearmament.

3. Two organizations conducting pro-accords campaign.

a. National Movement of Local Office-holders sending 100,000 pro-WEU letters to municipal and departmental councilors.

b. Socialist Office-holders' Association

1. Distributing similar appeal.